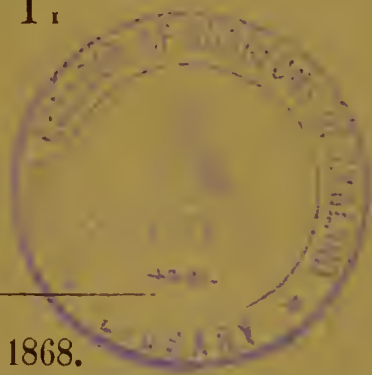


FIRST

Annual Report

OF THE

BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION SOCIETY.



MARCH 31, 1868.

LONDON :

HAMILTON, ADAMS, & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW.

BIRMINGHAM : CORNS AND BARTLEET.

1868.

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OFFICES—86, NEW STREET.



Birmingham Education Society.

RULES AND OBJECTS.

I. The name of the Society shall be "The Birmingham Education Society."

II. The object of the Society shall be the Advancement of Education in Birmingham and the immediate neighbourhood :—

1. By collecting and disseminating information on the subject generally.
2. By taking steps for obtaining local rating powers on behalf of Education.
3. By securing Educational provisions in any legislative measures for the regulation of labour.
4. By paying all or part of the school fees for the Education of children, whose parents or guardians cannot pay such fees themselves.
5. By raising and distributing funds for or towards the enlargement, the building and the maintenance of schools.
6. By adopting any other measures, from time to time, which may seem best calculated to advance the objects of the Society.

III. That a subscription of not less than £1. 1s. annually shall constitute membership of the Society.

IV. An Annual Meeting of the Members shall be held in the month of April, to receive reports, pass accounts, appoint the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year, and generally to transact any business connected with the objects of the Society. A General Meeting of the Society may also be called at other times, by the Committee, or on the requisition of any twenty Members, addressed to the President, or one of the Vice-presidents, who shall be bound, immediately on receipt of the requisition, to convene such Meeting by circular, stating the object for which it is called, and giving seven clear days' notice.

V. The General Rules of the Society shall not be added to or altered, or any new measure be adopted under Clause 6 of Rule II, except by a resolution carried at a General Meeting of the Members, convened by circular; and a fortnight's notice of such proposed resolution shall be given previous to such Meeting being held. The Committee, however, shall be empowered to make such regulations and bye-laws as may be necessary, with regard to their own proceedings and those of the subordinate Officers of the Society, provided that such bye-laws are in no way inconsistent with the General Rules and principles of the Society.

VI. The administrative powers of the Society shall be vested in a Committee, consisting of twenty-five members and the Officers appointed at the Annual General Meeting, of whom nine shall be a quorum. The Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

VII. The Officers of the Society, who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting, shall be a President, two Vice-presidents, a Treasurer, and an Honorary Secretary.

VIII. If any Officers of the Society or other Members of the Committee shall resign, or if from any other cause a seat on the Committee shall become vacant, the Committee shall appoint to the vacancy.

IX. The Committee shall meet at least once a month; and any member absenting himself from all the meetings of the Committee during three consecutive months, shall be considered to have thereby vacated his seat.

X. Members of the Committee who have not attended at least one-third of the meetings, held between the time of their appointment and the next General Annual Meeting, shall be ineligible for re-appointment at that meeting.

XI. The Committee may appoint or dismiss the *paid* Officers of the Society, at any of their meetings, provided a week's notice be given to all the members of the Committee of such proposed dismissal or appointment.

XII. Annual Subscriptions and Donations, unappropriated by the contributors, shall be devoted to the payment of school fees, and the general expenses of the Society.

XIII. The Society shall undertake to receive and distribute subscriptions, donations, or bequests specially destined for the enlargement, building, or maintenance of Schools. For this purpose two special and distinct funds shall be opened: one for denominational and the other for non-denominational Schools. Contributors to the denominational fund may specify the denomination to which their contributions shall be allotted. With regard to the non-denominational fund, the Committee shall, on application, make grants from such fund to any Committee, the constitution and plans of which are approved by them, and which is formed for the purpose of establishing and conducting a non-denominational School. Any special contributions which, at the end of two years, still remain unexpended, may be devoted to the general purposes of the Society, unless otherwise appropriated by the contributor.

XIV. The Committee shall prepare a list of all the Schools to which children may be sent by order of the Society, which list shall constantly hang in the offices for reference, and be revised once a quarter. All schools in receipt of Annual Government Grants shall be entitled to be placed on the list, and any others in connection with any recognized religious denomination, or in which, besides secular instruction, the scriptures are read daily from the authorized version, and all night schools connected with any of the above-named schools, provided that their efficiency is established to the satisfaction of the Committee. Every school on the list shall be visited at such time as the Committee shall determine, by members of the Committee, or other persons appointed for that purpose; and any school failing to satisfy the Committee of its efficiency, shall be struck off the list. The parents or guardians of any child sent to school under an order from the Society, may send the child to any school on the list.

XV. Forms of application for assistance in the payment of school

fees shall be provided and issued at the discretion of the Committee. A form shall be filled up by the parents or guardians of each applicant, or on their behalf, stating the number of the family, their weekly earnings, the school to which it is proposed to send the child, and such other particulars as may be required by the Committee. Before any child can be admitted to school under aid from the Society, the statements made in the form shall be inquired into and reported on by a duly authorized visitor, and the fitness of the case certified to the satisfaction of the Committee. If the case is duly certified, the Committee shall issue an order to the manager of the school selected to admit the child, the manager being required to keep a register of its attendance at the school, such register being open to the inspection of the Committee or their authorized officers. An account of the number of weeks the child has attended shall be furnished to the Committee by the school manager, at the end of each quarter, and the actual attendance shall be paid for at the rate per week specified in the Society's order. Any orders may be revoked by the Committee on sufficient cause for such revocation being shown.



Birmingham Education Society.

REPORT.

IN March, 1867, Mr. George Dixon, M.P., who was then Mayor, convened several private meetings to consider the state of education in Birmingham. At these meetings the question was fully discussed, and resolutions were passed which were submitted to a public meeting, held in the Committee Room of the Town Hall, March 14, 1867. On the basis of these resolutions, the Birmingham Education Society was formed, and a provisional committee was appointed to draw up the rules of the Society, which were adopted, with some alterations, by a general meeting of the members, held March 28th. On the 17th of June a general meeting was held, when the report of the provisional committee was received and adopted, and a committee of twenty-five members, with president and other officers, was elected.

The committee deemed it one of their first and most important duties to collect information and reliable statistics as to the educational condition of the town; and to that end they employed eight active and intelligent men to make a house-to-house visitation. There are 1,027 streets in the borough. Of these, 273 are of a class that does not require visiting. The remaining 754 streets have been thoroughly canvassed, and the educational condition of the inhabitants ascertained.

The results of this canvass are of a most interesting

character, showing at a glance the educational condition of the manual labour class, and they form in themselves ample proof of the value and usefulness of the Society.

A resolution having been moved in the Town Council by the late mayor, Mr. Dixon, in favour of empowering corporate bodies to levy rates for educational purposes, your committee promoted a memorial in support of that resolution. This memorial, numerouslly signed by ratepayers, artisans, school teachers, and other inhabitants, was presented to the Council in September last.

A deputation was appointed by the committee, to attend the National Conference on Education, which took place at Manchester, in January, with instructions to support the principle of local rating for educational purposes.

Mr. Geo. Dixon, M.P., Mr. Alderman Ryland, and the Hon. Secretary, accordingly attended the Conference, and subsequently reported to your Committee that the principle of local rating was approved almost unanimously, and that the meeting, which was a most important one, being composed of representative men from all parts of the kingdom, was generally in favour of making both the school rate and attendance of children compulsory.

Your committee desire to acknowledge the help they have received from the masters, mistresses, and managers of schools generally, in furnishing information and in furthering the aims of the Society. They also wish to notice the courtesy of the Manchester Education Aid Society in providing them with copies of school forms and other documents in use with them; and especially the kindness of Mr. J. A. Bremner, Honorary Secretary of the Manchester Society, in giving suggestions and information which have been of great value to the committee.

There are now 80 schools on the list of the society to which children are sent free. This comprises four-fifths of the whole number in Birmingham. The cases of the children have been strictly examined before grants have been made, in order to avoid the demoralisation resulting from giving aid to those who could afford to educate their own children. In this matter the committee have been guided, in a great measure, by the number of persons in each family and their aggregate weekly earnings.

As an illustration of the care used in this respect, they may mention that of 300 families, taken indiscriminately from the visitors' books, containing 1842 persons, the average income,

after deducting rent, was 1s. 1½d. per week per head. The particulars of these 300 families are as follows:—

Total number of persons	1842
Average income per head per week, after deducting rent	1s. 1½d.
Rent per head per week	5½d.
Total number of children of all ages	1322
Number of children at school	31
Number at work above 15 years old.....	334
Neither at work nor school above 15 years.....	28
Number at work below 15 years old	79
Number neither at work nor at school between 3 and 15 years old	440
Under 3 years old.....	410

Of 300 families, also taken indiscriminately from the visitors' books, 80, or more than one-fourth, belong to widows and women deserted by their husbands. The particulars of these 80 families are as follows:—

Total number of persons	494
Average income per head per week, after deducting rent	10½d.
Rent per head per week.....	5½d.
Total number of children of all ages	414
Number of children at school	4
Number at work under 15 years old.....	90
Number at work above 15 years old	64
Neither at work nor school above 15 years old	18
Number neither at school nor at work between 3 and 15 years old	174
Under 3 years of age	64

It is evident that under such circumstances money for school fees cannot be spared, and in the absence of some such help as your society is providing, these children must, through poverty alone, grow up in total ignorance.

Of 300 families reported on but *not* assisted by the society, taken at hazard from the visitors' books, the following are the particulars:—

Total number of persons.....	1970
Average income per head per week, after deducting rent	1s. 10½d.
Rent per head per week	5½d.
Number of children of all ages	1400
Number of children at school	240
Number at work above 15 years old.....	341
Number at work below 15 years old	76
Number neither at work nor at school, above 3 years old	461
Number under 3 years of age	282

Many of these are fit objects for the society's aid, but with the limited amount of funds at your committee's disposal, it was thought best to select the most destitute cases.

The canvass of the town, which has occupied so much of your committee's attention during the past year, being now complete, special attention will be directed to re-visiting the assisted families and inducing the parents, whenever possible, to pay a *portion* of the school fees.

The school accounts from 64 schools, for the quarter ending March 25th, amounted to £278. 4s. 10d. This is for 3,097 children, and amounts to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. a week per child, or after the rate of nine shillings per annum for each. The attendance of the children who have used the school orders has been very satisfactory, being for the quarter named, 214,416 attendances or half days, or on an average about $8\frac{1}{2}$ per week for each child. Ten attendances would be a full week.

It has been frequently represented that instruction given free is not valued by the parents, but the contrary seems to be the fact, and those parents who have used the Society's free school orders at all, have sent their children to school with great regularity.

The remarks in the visitors' books respecting the condition of many poor families are full of sad interest, and show that, for the most part, the very poor have their energies and attention too fully engaged in obtaining bread to think of sparing anything towards their children's schooling. In very many poor families, where sickness and infirmity exist, the society's aid is absolutely indispensable if the children are to be taught at all.

There is one important fact to which special attention is requested. A large proportion of the free school orders issued by the committee have been unused by the children. The total number issued up to the end of January was 4,729; 373 were cancelled (the circumstances of the cases having altered), and 1,178, or about one quarter, have not been used. There has not been time for revisiting all these children to ascertain the causes of absence with sufficient completeness to embody the information in the present report, but allowing for those gone to work and kept at home through illness, or to assist in house work, there is reason to fear that a large number, both of children and parents, are indifferent to the advantages offered them. The society, by paying the full amount of the school fees and not calling on the parent to pay any part, has fully tested this matter, and the general conclusion—the result of actual experiment—seems to be that the poor are divided on the matter of education into two classes:—one class prevented by poverty from sending

their children to school—these are making good use of the society's free school orders, and are sending their children with satisfactory regularity; the other class care nothing about education, and will take no pains to send their children to school, though the fees are paid for them. Your committee, without affirming the principle of compulsion, are, therefore, forced from these facts to conclude that this class of children can only be brought under instruction by a compulsory law; and that, in the absence of compulsion, they will grow up in ignorance and vice through the apathy resulting, in a great part, from the ignorance of the parents themselves.

In order to ascertain the capacity of the school accommodation in Birmingham to meet the expected requirements of the Factory and Workshops Bills, all the schools in Birmingham—92 in number—were visited in November last, when the following results were obtained:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	Mixed.	Grand Total.
Total accommodation	9,180 ...	6,675 ...	4,720 ...	8,700 ...	29,275
Average attendance	...6,404 ...	... 3,998 ...	... 3,152 ...	... 4,978 ...	... 18,532
Vacancies for	...2,776 ...	... 2,677 ...	... 1,568 ...	... 3,722 ...	... 10,743

There are, in the office of the society, full details of these returns, showing what parts of Birmingham are deficient, or otherwise, in school accommodation. With a view to ascertain the probable number of children affected by the Factory Acts, the following abstract from the society's tables were then made:—Of the 14,986 children, visited, 1,542 between the ages of 8 and 13 years were at work, earning on an average 2s. 2½d. each per week. Of these, probably about 500 were engaged as errand boys and nurse girls, leaving about 1,000 children out of 15,000, or about 7 per cent., who will be affected by the Act. Out of the 15,000 cases reported by the society's visitors, 5,187, or about 34 per cent., were absent from school from various causes. Many of those reported at school go so little, and so irregularly, that they can be receiving but little practical good, and if this fact be reckoned, a much larger number than the above are receiving no useful instruction.

The following table, compiled from the above-mentioned returns, shows the school accommodation in the several wards of the borough, with the proportion to population, the latter

being calculated on the Registrar General's estimate to the middle of the year 1867 :—

Registrars' Districts.	Population.	School accommo- dation.	Average attend- ance of scholars.	Per cent. of accommoda- tion to population.
All Saints'	24,357 ...	1,480 ...	872 ...	6.07
Deritend	37,597 ...	3,050 ...	1,898 ...	8.11
Duddeston	47,772 ...	2,830 ...	1,898 ...	5.92
Edgbaston	15,409 ...	960 ...	850 ...	6.03
Ladywood	47,322 ...	4,325 ...	2,973 ...	9.01
St. George's	49,808 ...	3,620 ...	2,299 ...	7.26
St. Martin's	36,261 ...	2,880 ...	1,994 ...	7.94
St. Mary's	16,971 ...	2,620 ...	1,262 ...	15.43
St. Paul's	9,214 ...	450 ...	270 ...	4.08
St. Peter's	14,655 ...	2,620 ...	1,391 ...	11.05
St. Philip's	9,104 ...	1,150 ...	722 ...	12.63
St. Thomas's	35,478 ...	3,290 ...	2,102 ...	9.27
Total	343,948	29,275	18,531	

School accommodation for 8.41 average per cent. upon whole population.

Many children were found absent from school whose parents were in receipt of parish relief, and your committee not deeming them fit objects for the society's aid, but being reluctant to pass them over, appointed a deputation to wait on the Board of Guardians, with a view of getting them sent to school at the expense of the parish (in accordance with the Act of Parliament). The views of the deputation were favourably received, and the following resolution was passed by the Board of Guardians, January 15th, and a copy forwarded to your hon. secretary to lay before the committee :—

"That the deputation of the society for the education of children be respectfully informed, that this Board is sensible of the importance of the work they have undertaken, in aiding the poor of the borough to obtain an education for their children, being necessary for their own comfort and the welfare of society. That it is also obliged to the deputation for directing the board's attention to the education of the children of out-door paupers. At the same time, the board begs to inform them that some time since the Relief Committees were instructed to see that such children were sent to school, and where necessary to pay the fees. That the board will also feel great pleasure in aiding the society in any way they can, in harmony with the just administration of the funds at their disposal, and of giving attention to any children of out-door paupers the agents of the society may bring under their notice."

In accordance with this resolution your committee have forwarded to the Board of Guardians the names and addresses of all the children of out-door paupers, who have come under their notice.

The Guardians have only a permissive power, at present, to pay the school fees of these children, but your committee deem it very desirable that such payments should be made compulsory, as the rates cannot be expended in a better manner than in educating pauper children, thereby taking the most effectual means of diminishing pauperism.

Your committee, feeling that the number of names on the school books did not give a correct idea of the progress and condition of education in the town, in consequence of the irregularity of attendance, and the early age at which children leave school, resolved, by individual examination, to test the state of instruction of young persons past the school age, between 13 and 21 years, employed in the various factories.

Permission was obtained from a large number of manufacturers to examine the young persons in their employ, between the ages named.

The examination was kindly undertaken, with the assistance of Mr. J. H. Aston, the visitor, by Mr. Long, of the Saltley Training College, whose able report, being so full of interest, the committee feel bound to give in full.

To the Committee of the Birmingham Education Society.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to lay before you the following information respecting the state of education amongst young persons of both sexes, between the ages of 13 and 21, employed in various manufactories in the town of Birmingham.

NUMBER EXAMINED.

The time at my disposal was two weeks, and the number of "permits" placed in my hands ninety. Twenty-six establishments have been visited, and 908 candidates examined, of whom 529 were males, and 379 females.

A much larger number might have been examined, and with no greater labour, if the order of visits had been pre-arranged. In most cases two journeys to each factory have been necessary, the first having resulted merely in appointing the time for a second visit. Moreover, "Saint Monday" has hindered the progress of the inquiry in the early part of the week, while pressure of business has, in many factories, interfered with it on Friday and Saturday.

All that could be done was to select, in different parts of the town, establishments that might be considered representative, both as to the several branches of industrial occupation, and the various numbers of workmen employed. From all that I can learn, therefore, the accompanying statements may be taken as approximately true in respect of the young factory workers generally, and as giving, therefore, a fair indication of their educational condition.

STANDARD OF ATTAINMENT SELECTED.

The test applied has been similar to that made use of in examinations under the "fourth standard" of the Committee of Council on Education. This is the lowest standard in which money "accounts" and writing on

paper are required, while it is the highest at present attained in elementary schools by the majority of the children of working men.

In marking the handwriting and arithmetic some allowance has been made for nervousness and want of practice. The reading has not needed this to the same extent, and the spelling marks have been kept separate.

SYSTEM OF MARKS EMPLOYED.

A "*blank*" or "*dash*" (thus "—") indicates complete failure.

"*Bad*."—Reading: Merely monosyllables, or perhaps easy dissyllables, with the aid of a little spelling.—Writing: Only the name signed, or, if more, done so slowly and so illegibly as to be worthless.—Spelling: More than four mistakes in twenty-four words.—Arithmetic: Nothing beyond adding up two or three days' wages at a few shillings and pence per day.—General Knowledge: Nothing more than perhaps the name of this country; that London and Yorkshire are in it; and that Oliver Cromwell battered down some castles in fighting against a king.

"*Good*." has been given for reading which was fluent, even if not expressive; for writing, fairly regular, and done with ease; for spelling, with only one mistake in twenty-four words; for arithmetic, when, of three examples given in the compound rules, one was worked accurately, and the "principle" of working the other two shown to be understood; in general knowledge, for a fair acquaintance with the names of the chief towns of England; their position, and why important; the principal countries of the world, with their more important productions; and a few leading facts in the history of England.

"*Moderate*" denotes reading without fluency or accuracy; writing "with difficulty and labour," and so on.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION.

The per centage of attainment is as follows:—

			Read.	Writ.	Spel.	Arith.	Gen. Know.
(A)	<i>Males</i> ..	{ Good	42	34	18	8	7
		{ Moderate ...	18	22	11	8	19
		{ Bad or Fail.	40	44	71	84	74
(B)	<i>Females</i>	{ Good	28	16	9	1	1
		{ Moderate ...	24	20	5	4	10
		{ Bad or Fail.	48	64	86	95	89
(C)	<i>Both Males and Femls</i>	{ Good	36	27	14	5	4
		{ Moderate ...	20	21	8	6	16
		{ Bad or Fail.	44	52	78	89	80

The lower (c) part of this table shows that in reading and writing nearly half of the whole number examined do nothing, or next to nothing, and only one-third (*i.e.*, 36 per cent.) do at all well. In arithmetic and general knowledge more than three-fourths fail, or nearly so, and only 1 in 20 shows anything like a satisfactory degree of attainment. In these two latter subjects, however, the males, taken separately, average one "good" mark out of 12; the females, only one out of every 10.

The higher average, under the head of reading, points at once to the work of the Sunday school, and the abundance of cheap newspapers and periodicals. When, however, it is compared with the average obtained for general knowledge, the difference between "instruction" and "education" becomes painfully apparent. These youths have acquired the mechanical art of reading, but not the habit of thinking. With minds untrained to attend, memories to retain, and reason to reflect, they read only for pastime and temporary gratification, and have no taste for any but the "trashiest" kind of literature that comes in their way. With the key of knowledge

laboriously furnished to them, they care to open no door but that of a play-room.

Many of the passes in writing proved upon inquiry to be due, in great measure, to the instruction given on Sundays in certain Nonconformist Sabbath Schools. Nearly 30 per cent. do not write at all; about 20 per cent. just manage "to sign their name." This is, in my mind, as bad as nothing at all. Unless a person can write well enough to set down his thoughts on paper—as in a letter—or to make notes of what he reads, or sees, or hears, his signature is only the old "mark" or "cross" under another form, conventionally elaborated in order to save appearances.

SCHOOL-STAY.

The following table shews the per centage of attendance at school for various periods:—

Time at	Day School.	Sunday School.	Night School.	
Four years or more.....	45	37	2	} 100
Less than four years	38	47	45*	
Not at all	17	16	53	

* Of these 25 less than 1 year.

From this it appears, that out of every 100 examined, only 45 have been in day schools long enough to be expected to reach the fourth standard. By reference to the table previously given it will be seen that of these 45, only 36 passed in reading, 27 in handwriting, 14 in spelling, 5 in arithmetic, and 4 in general information. Of those who failed altogether, or are marked "bad," one-half have never been at a day school, one-fourth have been less than three years, and the remaining one-fourth more than three years.

CONCLUSIONS.

The general conclusions to which these facts seem to lead are, that we need some far more comprehensive system of education than we at present possess, in order not only to bring all children into school, but to make them attend with regularity, and remain after they have learnt the arts of reading, writing, and cyphering, long enough to become accustomed to the use of them as instruments of self-culture.

Then, when children left the primary school, there would be some chance of success in imparting to them technical instruction. The night school would become a "Fortbildung"—continuating school—affording to them what would then be a relaxation after physical labour, and a mental recreation, in the place of what is now a toilsome struggle to overtake the days gone by.

At present they are not prepared for a step in advance. Most of them have as yet no footing, and I fear that it will be in vain to form them into classes for the study of special higher subjects. The lecture is but the handmaid to the treatise, the class-room (except in the case of drawing) is but the ante-room to the "study," and "technical instruction" will make but little way amongst the artisans of this country until they are better prepared for it by a more thorough system of "primary education."

I have to express my best thanks for the courtesy with which we were everywhere received, and for the facilities afforded to us in carrying on the work of examination.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN LONG,

Saltley Training College, February 24, 1868.

The following was the sentence in which the young persons were examined by Mr. Long, in writing from dictation :—

“A miller dreamt that under a certain part of the foundation of his mill there lay concealed a huge pan of gold and diamonds.”

A similar passage—each being taken from the fourth standard book used in schools—was employed in the examination for reading. The fourth standard in arithmetic is the lowest in which money is reckoned.

The number of “full passes,” or of those who passed this simple test in each of the three subjects, reading, writing, and arithmetic, were:—Males, 36 out of 529; females, 5 out of 379; total 41 out of 908, or about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Your committee wish to call attention to the fact, that though so many of these young persons have been at school, many of them for a very considerable time, and nearly half of them for a period of more than 4 years, yet only 4 per cent. have retained any amount of instruction worth naming.

Members of your committee have made periodical visits to the schools to which the Society’s children are sent, and find the reports of the schoolmasters respecting the children to be generally favourable. These children, though poor and ill clad, yet possess ability and aptitude, and willingness for learning quite up to the average; and your committee feel they cannot over estimate the importance of the work they are doing, both to the children and to society, in bringing them under a course of instruction which they never would have received but for the existence of this society.

Your committee trust that large sums will be entrusted to them for the purpose of assisting in the establishing and building of new schools. They hold £136 for the establishment of non-denominational schools, and they have to report that a number of gentlemen are actively engaged in commencing a non-denominational school in All Saints’ ward—a movement which would not have been commenced but for the influence and promised aid of this Society. The donations for the establishment of Church of England schools, amounting to £13. 8s., have been applied mostly to the schools about to be erected in Staniforth Street by the Rev. Dr. Burges. By an increase of the funds at the Society’s disposal to assist in building and establishing schools, a great impetus might be given to education throughout the town.

It must be noticed that the sum expended by the society in school fees, does not represent the full amount of good done. The Privy Council treat the Society's payments as duly meeting the conditions of the public grant, under Article 52, c. 1, of the code, thus causing a much larger sum to be spent on education in Birmingham through the existence of the Society.

In reference to the tables given at page 9, it must be remarked that trade was in a very depressed state in Birmingham during the whole time over which the canvass extended, and consequently the earnings of each family were considerably lower than usual.

The number of school orders granted to the present time is 6,319; of these, taking the usual average, about 4,700 will be used; this represents an expenditure of about £2,000 per annum, and your Society's income from annual subscriptions, exclusive of donations, is only £520. The committee beg the attention of the subscribers and the public generally to this fact, and earnestly hope that increased funds will be placed at their disposal to enable them to continue their operations on the present scale, and to prevent the necessity of dismissing the children from the schools back again into the streets through want of funds to carry on the work.

Of the children visited whose parents could not afford to pay school fees, 931 can receive no aid from the Society through want of clothes; the condition of these children is that of extreme poverty, some of them being almost naked, and in such a state that no school could possibly receive them. In many cases, families of children are found with nothing that can be called a garment on them. Could these poor children be seen by the public in the courts and alleys from which they rarely emerge, it would excite the sympathy and compassion of every observer.

The lamentable state of ignorance among the poorer classes, revealed in this report, must present almost insurmountable obstacles to the spread of morality, temperance, and religion, and should fill the mind of every reader with deep concern. Though this Society, or any voluntary agency, cannot overcome the apathy of parents and the wilful disregard of the offers of education which so largely exist, yet it can in the most effectual manner take care that the means of instruction are brought within the reach of every child, so that none, through poverty, may be deprived of it. Your committee, in conclusion, most earnestly press this matter on

the consideration of all ; and trust that the need having been shown, and the machinery for help provided, the necessary funds will not be wanting.



Birmingham Education Society.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

THE tables on the following pages, as far as they refer to the reading and writing of the children, are considered to state the case much too favourably. In many cases where children are reported by the parents as being able to read and write, the visitors have examined the children themselves and found them just able to spell out very easy words with great difficulty, and equally backward in the matter of writing. The visitors report that they tested a number between the ages of 9 and 15 stated by their parents to be able to read and write well, and found the majority of them had great difficulty in writing a small paragraph in a legible hand, and in reading the same without spelling several words. The number given as able to read and write must be taken with these explanations. It is not to be inferred that the parents intended in their statements to give wrong information, but many of them being quite uninstructed themselves, dignify the rudest attempts on the part of their children, as reading and writing.

Of the 15,847 families reported on there are 10,227 parents earning an average of 20s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per week, the remaining 5,620, consist of—

Number out of Work	1,222
Widows and Deserted Women	1,587
Wages not given	2,811

The total number of children visited is 52,573. The particulars of 45,056, or all between the ages of 3 and 15, are given in the tables, the remaining 7,517 being below 3 years of age. Those given as between the ages of 14 and 15 are in excess of the actual number, which includes all who were 15, and just over that age.

TABLE showing results of Visitation of 45,056 Children, namely—23,052 Boys, and 22,004 Girls.

BOYS.	Years.	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 13	13 to 14	14 to 15	Total.
Total Children	1883	2083	2241	2114	2097	1991	1893	1763	1578	1546	1679	2184	23052
CHILDREN BETWEEN 3 AND 15 YEARS OF AGE.														
Been at School	559	1215	1585	1650	1728	1638	1550	1436	1240	1264	1407	1804	17076
Not been to School	1324	868	656	464	369	353	343	327	338	282	272	380	5976
At School now	559	750	1016	1134	1159	1057	970	721	523	321	179	198	8387
Time, in years, at School	1618	2066	3014	3840	4419	5215	5341	5020	5710	6330	8263	50646
EDUCATION.														
Read and Write	239	423	550	718	807	845	723	836	971	984	7095
Read	213	189	292	343	322	260	321	231	211	187	365	2934
Neither.....	1883	1870	1813	1399	1204	951	826	597	624	499	521	835	13022
REASONS FOR LEAVING SCHOOL.														
Unable to pay Fees	576	609	480	499	459	456	415	330	250	248	325	4047
Illness	55	55	46	26	30	14	15	18	11	25	16	311
No Cause given	1324	702	561	454	413	419	393	321	280	249	235	254	5605
WORK.														
At Work	26	60	291	427	715	992	1391	3902
Average Earnings	1 4 1/8	1 9/31	1 11 1/2	2 3/8	2 7/8	3 1/4	4 0 1/2	...
EDUCATION OF THOSE AT WORK.														
Read and Write	5	17	104	142	217	319	494	1298
Read	4	17	67	97	185	227	312	909
Neither.....	16	26	67	137	174	313	371	1104
Not been to School	1	...	53	51	139	133	214	591

* Too young to go to School.

GIRLS.		Years.														Total.	
Total Children															22004	
CHILDREN BETWEEN 3 AND 15 YEARS OF AGE.																	
Been at School		577	1108	1431	1553	1691	1611	1566	1388	1256	1228	1228	1284	13921			
Not been to School		1404	875	682	511	391	407	348	314	258	272	284	333	6083			
At School now		577	673	926	946	1061	1032	985	771	625	394	284	157	8436			
Time, in years, at School.....		...	1249	1658	2723	3660	4268	4946	4805	7110	5411	5909	5632	47371			
EDUCATION.																	
Read and Write .....		...	...	113	348	517	680	733	796	736	732	872	757	6284	
Read.....		...	122	173	283	326	296	300	224	244	215	157	208	2548			
Neither		1985	1861	1827	1433	1239	1042	881	682	534	553	483	652	13172			
REASONS FOR LEAVING SCHOOL.																	
Unable to pay Fees .....		...	517	493	497	539	506	406	407	367	368	203	199	4497	
Illness .....		...	49	62	53	66	30	33	24	33	14	19	6	389	
No Cause given		*1408	744	632	568	416	416	434	367	256	304	367	335	5247			
WORK.																	
At Work .....		...	...	...	...	...	18	34	96	183	342	542	740	1953	
Average Earnings .....		...	...	...	...	...	1/0 $\frac{3}{4}$	1/8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1/8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1/11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/3 $\frac{1}{4}$	2/6 $\frac{3}{4}$	3/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	480	
Service.....		...	...	...	...	...	16	22	37	50	78	97	180		
EDUCATION OF THOSE AT WORK.																	
Read and Write .....		...	...	...	...	...	8	7	38	63	145	229	256	746	
Read .....		...	...	...	...	...	9	23	30	72	85	166	219	604	
Neither.....		...	...	...	...	...	12	26	38	63	120	147	344	750	
Not been to School .....		...	...	...	...	...	5	—	27	35	70	97	101	335	

TABLE showing the per centage of Boys at the various ages who have been at School.

AGES.	AGES.													Average all Ages.
	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 13	13 to 14	14 to 15		
Per cent. on Totals	30	58	71	79	82	82	81	81	72	82	83	83	74.076	
Average time at School of each Child in years	—	3	3 1/2	1	1 3/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	3	3	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4	1 1/2	
Read and Write, per cent.	—	—	10	20	27	36	42	47	46	54	58	45	30.751	

TABLE showing the per centage of GIRLS at the various ages who have been at School.

AGES.	AGES.												Average all Ages.
	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 13	13 to 14	14 to 15	
Per cent. on Totals in each age ...	29	56	44	75	81	79	81	81	83	80	82	79	72.235
Average time at School of each Child in years.....	...	3 4	3 4 5	1	1 25	2 33	2 38	3 47	4 42	3 49	4 58	3 47	2 28.557
Read and Write, per cent. ....	...	...	...	17	25	33	38	47	42	49	58	47	28.557

TABLE showing per centage of Children at work who can Read and Write; and per centage of Children who have never been to School.

Boys who can Read and Write	33.034	} 35.646 per cent. on the whole.
Girls	38.158	
Boys who have never been to School	15.145	} 16.139 "
Girls	17.135	

These returns include every child who has been in a school of any kind (including dames' schools), no matter for how short a time.

PARTICULARS OF SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING EASTER, 1868.

NAME OF SCHOOL.	Number of Schools.	Number of Children.	Weeks in Attendance.	Total Attendance.	Number of Attendances possible.	Paid by the Society for the Quarter.			Paid by the Society for the Year.		
						£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Bishop Ryder's	2	243	2055	10080	13088	21	3	6	39	12	6
Boatman's Bethel	1	34	378	3632	3780	4	4	1	4	4	1
Bordesley Street	1	28	298	2874	2980	3	2	3	4	7	6
Carr's Lane.....	1	10	117	1086	1170	1	9	3	2	8	0
Christ Church	3	153	1548	13280	15480	16	4	7	18	13	3
Church of the Messiah ...	1	37	340	3065	3400	4	5	0	4	13	8
Church of the Saviour.....	1	19	174	1358	1740	2	18	0	5	5	8
Edgbaston Parish	1	4	30	221	300	0	7	6	0	7	6
Guildford Street	2	72	603	4543	5617	6	0	3	6	0	3
Immanuel	1	34	298	2447	2980	2	7	11	5	14	7
Lawrence Street	1	36	276	2381	2760	1	12	9	2	15	4
Legge Street	1	23	232	2029	2320	2	8	5	4	4	3
Mission, Floodgate Street	1	20	250	1402	2500	1	10	4	1	10	4
New Jerusalem	1	72	647	5634	6470	10	1	8	16	15	10
Steelhouse Lane	1	13	141	1254	1410	1	10	5	3	14	11
Tennant Street	1	2	7	55	470	0	1	6	0	1	6
Vale Street.....	1	97	852	7470	8520	10	13	6	10	13	6
Wesleyan, St. Martin's St.	1	189	1513	14019	15130	16	9	0	20	12	8
St. Andrew's	1	184	1480	13192	14800	14	5	11	14	5	11
St. Anne's (R. C.)	2	13	88	833	880	1	2	0	1	2	0
St. Barnabas	2	84	681	5593	5426	7	1	0	7	11	9
St. Bartholomew's.....	1	63	649	5730	6490	6	11	4	10	12	11
St. Chad's (R. C.)	2	93	1034	4763	9703	6	8	6	10	19	5
St. Clement's	2	31	292	2189	2920	2	12	2	2	12	2
St. George's	3	125	1088	9362	10880	9	10	1	19	9	3
St. James's, Ashted	1	67	523	4428	5230	5	17	3	5	17	3
St. John's, Ladywood	1	96	805	6701	8508	9	5	5	15	9	3
St. John's (R. C.)	2	43	299	1932	2528	2	12	10	3	14	1
St. Jude's	1	48	384	3139	3849	3	4	0	4	15	10
St. Mark's	1	27	208	1618	2080	2	4	9	2	4	9
St. Martin's	4	204	1962	15704	20134	19	4	1	38	10	6
St. Mary's	1	38	413	3776	4130	4	13	4	8	4	1
St. Mary's (R. C.)	1	3	26	188	260	0	4	4	0	4	4
St. Matthew's.....	4	105	815	6002	7215	6	17	0	6	17	0
St. Matthias	3	110	792	5532	7651	8	11	3	8	11	3
St. Patrick's (R. C.)	2	41	347	3377	3470	4	6	9	4	6	9
St. Paul's	1	130	1240	10255	12400	16	1	3	24	9	1
St. Peter's, Dale End	1	1	13	118	130	0	2	2	0	3	8
St. Peter's (R. C.)	1	74	620	5056	6200	6	10	2	9	14	1
St. Philip's	1	18	141	1113	1410	1	5	1	2	7	9
St. Stephen's	2	201	1652	13157	14898	16	0	9	16	0	9
St. Thomas's	2	212	1583	13828	15830	17	3	6	27	19	3
Total...	64	3097	26894	214416	255330	278	4	10	397	18	5

Total amount paid to Church of England Schools £274 15 8

" " Other Denominations 123 2 9

Average Attendance, including Night Schools, Eight and a small fraction per week.

SCHOOL LIST.

THE following are the Schools to which Scholars, assisted by the Education Society, may be sent. The Parents may choose any School in the list:—


DAY SCHOOLS.

All Saints', All Saints' Street.
 All Saints', Park Road, Hockley.
 All Saints', Heath Street.
 Bishop Ryder's, Gem Street.
 Boatmans' Bethel.
 Bordesley Street.
 Carr's Lane, New Meeting Street.
 Church of the Saviour, Helena Street.
 Christ Church, Pinfold Street.
 Christ Church, Fleet Street.
 Christ Church, Oozell Street.
 Church of the Messiah, Broad Street.
 Edgbaston Parish, Ampton Road.
 Guildford Street.
 Immanuel, Holliday Street.
 Islington Wesleyan, St. Martin's Street.
 Independent, Saltley Road.
 Improvement Rooms, Barr Street.
 Legge Street.
 Lawrence Street.
 Mission, Floodgate Street.
 New Jerusalem, Summer Lane.
 Oratory, R.C., Icknield Street East.
 Penn Street Industrial.
 St. Andrew's, Little Green Lane, Smallheath.
 St. Andrew's, Watery Lane.
 St. Anne's, R.C., Alcester Street.
 St. Alban's, Leopold Street.
 St. Barnabas', Ryland Street North.
 St. Barnabas' Infant, Ryland Street North.
 St. Bartholomew's, Fox Street.
 St. Chad's, R.C., Shadwell Street.
 St. Clement's, High Park Street, Nechells.
 St. David's, Macdonald Street.
 St. George's, Hospital Street.

St. George's, Great Russell Street.
 St. George's, Smith Street.
 St. John's, R.C., London Prentice Street.
 St. John's, Ladywood.
 St. Jude's, Infant, Hill Street.
 St. James's, Henry Street.
 St. James's, Heneage Street.
 St. Luke's, St. Luke's Street.
 St. Mark's Infant, Helena Street.
 St. Mary's, Bath Street.
 St. Mary's, R.C., Hunter's Lane.
 St. Martin's, Allison Street.
 St. Martin's, Inge Street.
 St. Martin's, Newhall Street.
 St. Matthew's, Duddleston Hall.
 St. Matthew's, Lupin Street.
 St. Matthew's, Dartmouth Street.
 St. Mathias', Farm Street.
 St. Mathias', Wheeler Street.
 St. Patrick's, R.C., Tonk Street.
 St. Paul's, Warstone Lane.
 St. Peter's, Dale End.
 St. Peter's R.C., St. Peter's Place, Broad Street.
 St. Philip's, Lichfield Street.
 St. Stephen's New Town Row.
 St. Thomas's, Bow Street.
 St. Thomas's, Wood Street.
 Steelhouse Lane.
 Slaney Street (Ragged) School.
 Tennant Street (Girls only).
 Vale Street.

NIGHT SCHOOLS.

Bishop Ryder's, Gem Street.
 Christ Church, Pinfold Street.
 Church of the Messiah, Broad Street.
 Guildford Street.
 St. Barnabas', Ryland Street.
 St. Bartholomew's, Fox Street.
 St. Chad's, R.C., Shadwell Street.
 St. John's, R.C., London Prentice Street.
 St. Martin's, Newhall Street.
 St. Matthew's, Dartmouth Street.
 St. Matthias', Wheeler Street.
 St. Matthew's, Lupin Street.
 St. Peter's, R.C., Broad Street.
 St. Stephen's, Newtown Row



Birmingham Education Society.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

THE following accounts will give full information as to the financial condition of the society. Since every subscription due to the society, as well as every account owing by it, is paid, the balance is a clear surplus on the year's transactions. The operations have, however, been on so limited a scale as to the payment of school fees, that no indication of what is required for the future can be gathered from these returns. If the society is to supply the want of the town by keeping at school all poor and neglected children, a greatly increased income will be necessary. In the past year, school fees were paid only during three quarters, one quarter having been consumed in preliminary arrangements. The accounts of the schools were for the first quarter, £17. 1s. 8d.; for the second, £102. 11s. 11d.; for the third, £278. 4s. 10d. The amounts thus increased as the operations of the visitors extended more widely over the town. From the still larger number of school orders just issued, it is to be assumed that the next quarterly charge for fees will considerably exceed the highest amount yet paid, and will continue to hold a high figure if the applications of all destitute children are granted.

As regards the other items of expenditure, I have merely to observe that there will be little occasion for any further charge for advertising; that printing and stationery will in future be of comparatively inconsiderable cost; and that the canvass instituted for the purpose of ascertaining the educational condition of the working-class children in the town, being now completed, will constitute but a trifling charge on the approaching year's income.

New annual subscriptions of £1. 1s. each have been promised for the year 1868-9, by Dr. Wade and Mrs. Crofts.

BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION SOCIETY.

BALANCE SHEET—31st MARCH, 1868.

To Balance of General Fund	£133	3	2	By Cash at Lloyds Banking Company	£272	1	2
" " Non-denominational School Fund	136	0	0				
" " Church of England School Fund.	2	18	0				
	£272	1	2		£272	1	2

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1868.

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
GENERAL FUND.				GENERAL FUND.			
To Subscriptions	.	£526	2 4	By Secretary	.	£45	16 8
" Ditto, 1868—9	.	1	1 0	" Postages and Sundries	.	13	4 6
" Donations	.	372	16 0	" Collecting Subscriptions	.	9	0 4
				" Advertising	.	12	13 6
				" Printing and Stationery	.	47	14 10
						128	9 10
NON-DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL FUND.				" School Fees Paid	.	397	18 5
To Subscriptions and Donations	.	136	0 0	" Memorial to Town Council on Rating	.	12	7 3
				" Canvass of the Town	.	228	0 8
						766	16 2
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL FUND.				Total Expenditure, General Fund	.		
To Subscriptions and Donations	.	13	8 0	CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL FUND.			
				By Grant to Staniforth Street School	.	10	10 0
						777	6 2
				Balance	.	272	1 2
						£1049	7 4

MICAIAH HILL, Auditor.



Birmingham Education Society.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

GENERAL FUND.

	Donations.			Annual Subscriptions.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Avery, Thomas . . .			...	10	10	0
Aitken, W. C. . . .			...	1	1	0
Albright, Arthur . .	10	0	0	2	2	0
Allen, W. S. . . . .			...	1	1	0
Aston, John . . . .			...	1	1	0
Avery, W. H. . . . .			...	2	2	0
Bache, Rev. Samuel . .			...	1	1	0
Bain, John . . . . .			...	1	1	0
Barclay, Hanbury . .			...	1	1	0
Barwell, James . . .			...	1	1	0
Blakemore, Villars . .			...	1	1	0
Bolton, William . . .			...	3	3	0
Boyden, Rev. H. . . .			...	1	1	0
Boyle, Rev. G. D. . .			...	2	2	0
Breay, Rev. H. T. . .			...	1	1	0
Brooks, John . . . .			...	1	1	0
Brown, Rev. J. J. . .			...	1	1	0
Bryce, J. and Co. . .			...	1	1	0
Buckley, Samuel . . .			...	1	1	0
Bunce, J. T. . . . .			...	1	1	0
Burges, Rev. Dr. J. Hart			...	1	1	0
Burges, Rev. R. B. . .			...	1	1	0
Callaway, Rev. W. F. .			...	1	1	0
Capel, Rev. H. W. . .			...	2	2	0
Cartwright, Charles . .			...	1	1	0
Chamberlain, Joseph (Broad Street)			...	5	0	0

	Donations.			Annual Subscriptions.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Chamberlain Joseph (Moor Green Hall)				5	0	0
Chance, John H.	50	0	0	1	1	0
Chance, R. L.				100	0	0
Clarke, Rev. C.				1	1	0
Cohen, A. D.	1	1	0			
Collings, Jesso				1	1	0
Collins, J. T.				1	1	0
Cooper, J. A.				1	1	0
Dale, Rev. F. S.				1	1	0
Dale, Rev. R. W.				5	5	0
Davies, Dr. Birt				2	2	0
Dawson, George				1	1	0
Day, Alexander				1	1	0
Dixon, Abraham	100	0	0			
Dixon, George				100	0	0
Deykin, W. H.				1	1	0
Dixon, W. H.				1	1	0
Dowling, Rev. J. P.				1	1	0
Earl, William				1	1	0
Elkington and Co.				100	0	0
Espin, Rev. T. E.				1	1	0
Evans, Rev. C.				1	1	0
Evans, Dr.				1	1	0
Evans, Sebastian				1	1	0
Faris, David				1	1	0
Fleming, Dr.				1	1	0
Field, Alfred				5	0	0
Freeman, James				1	1	0
Fry, H. A.				1	1	0
Gabriel, Rev. J. B.				1	1	0
Gameson, John				1	1	0
Gamgee, J. S.				1	1	0
Gargory, James				1	1	0
Gausby, J. B.				1	1	0
Gem, E. and Co.				1	19	4
Gooch, E.				1	1	0
Goodman, J. D.				1	1	0
Green, John				1	1	0
Grew, Frederick				1	1	0
Griffiths and Browett				2	2	0
Harris, Benjamin				1	1	0
Harris, William				1	1	0
Harrison, Thomas				1	1	0

	Donations.			Annual Subscriptions.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Harwood, C.	2	0	0
Hasluck, D. S.	2	2	0
Hawkes, Alderman	1	1	0
Hawkes, Timothy	1	1	0
Heaton, Ralph	1	1	0
Heslop, Dr.	1	1	0
Hill, Mr. Registrar	1	1	0
Hill, Rev. Micaiah	1	1	0
Hinks, John	1	1	0
Holliday & Lewis	2	2	0
Hopkins, Isaac N.	2	2	0
Hopkins, I. Satchell	1	1	0
Hunt, George	1	1	0
Hunt, James	.	.	50 0 0			
Jaffray, John	1	1	0
Jenkins, James	1	1	0
Johnson, Rev. G. B.	10	0	0
Johnson, J. G.	1	1	0
Jordan, William Ross	1	1	0
Kekewich, T.	1	1	0
Kenrick, Archibald	.	.	100 0 0			
Kenrick, Timothy	.	.	25 0 0	1	1	0
Kenrick, William	1	1	0
Kynnersley, T. C. S.	1	1	0
Langford, J. A.	1	1	0
Lazarus, Isaac	1	1	0
Ledsam, Rev. D.	1	1	0
Leech, Robert	.	.	1 0 0	...		
Leonard, Rev. H. C.	2	2	0
Lindner, M.	1	1	0
Lloyd, G. B.	1	1	0
Lowe, T. C.	1	1	0
MacCarthy, Rev. Egerton	1	1	0
McClelland, John	2	2	0
Manton, Henry	1	1	0
Marson, Rev. C.	1	1	0
Mathews, G. S.	1	1	0
Mathews, W., jun.	1	1	0
Middlemore, W.	1	1	0
Myers, Rev. Edward	1	1	0
Osborne, E. C.	1	1	0
Osler, A. F.	.	.	20 0 0	1	1	0

	Donations.			Annual Subscriptions.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Padmore, John			1	1	0
Partridge, J. A.			1	1	0
Payton, Henry			1	1	0
Pemberton, O.			1	1	0
Pendleton, E. T.			1	1	0
Pendleton, L.			1	1	0
Pendleton, W.			1	1	0
Pettitt, Rev. G.			1	1	0
Peyton, Abel . . .	10	10	0			
Peyton, Richard			1	1	0
Pursall, Mrs.			1	1	0
Player, Brothers			2	2	0
Ratcliff, Charles			5	5	0
Rice, M. J. and Co.			1	1	0
Robertson, George			1	1	0
Rolason, W.			1	1	0
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